

B2
C1

(line 3) (SEQ ID NO.21). The conserved amino acids are indicated by ".". Gaps inserted in the sequence for the purpose of alignment are indicated by "_".

Substitute new sequence listing by amendment.

In the Claims

Kindly amend claims 5 and 6 as follows.

B3

~~5. (Twice Amended) An isolated protein encoded by a *ced-3* nucleic acid, said protein being hydrophilic in nature, comprising a serine-rich region, and functioning in cell death.~~

~~6. (Twice Amended) An isolated protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:19.~~

REMARKS

Summary of the Invention

This invention features *ced-3* related genes shown to be essential for programmed cell death and their encoded polypeptides. Methods and agents that decrease cell death are potentially useful for the treatment of disorders characterized by cell deaths, such as Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease. Methods and agents that increase cell death are potentially useful for reducing the proliferation or size of cell populations, such as cancerous cells, cells infected with viruses, or cells that produce autoreactive antibodies.